

REMARKS


Claims 38 and 41 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Vaz *et al.* Claim 38 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter recited in Claim 43. Claim 43 is canceled accordingly. Claim 41 has also been canceled. Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 38 and 41 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is therefore respectfully requested.

Claims 38-42 and 44-52 have been provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 42-53 of copending Application No. 10/946,850. A Terminal Disclaimer under 37 CFR 1.321 is being submitted to obviate the provisional double patenting rejection.

Claims 1-13, 15-37 and 43 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claim 1 has been amended to replace the term "polyion-type" with "polyion." Claim 31 has been canceled. The preamble of Claim 32 has been amended as a result of the cancellation of Claim 31. Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 1 and its dependent claims under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, is therefore respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance. An early indication of the same is therefore respectfully requested. If any matters can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below. No fees beyond those being submitted concurrently herewith are believed due. However, the commissioner is authorized to charge any additional required fees, or credit any overpayment, to Dorsey & Whitney LLP Deposit Account No. 50-2319 (Order No. A-72221 (477077-128)).

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP



Tianjun Hou
Reg. No. 51,821

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Customer No. 32940
555 California Street, Suite 1000
San Francisco, CA 94184-1017
Telephone: 650-857-1717
Facsimile: 650-857-1288

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